

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-17 and 20-23 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 are amended, Claims 20-23 are added, and Claims 18 and 19 were previously canceled.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,137,468 to Martinez in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,506 to Hoshino, U.S.P. 6,326,978 to Robbins et al. (herein "Robbins"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,781,165 to Tabata.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Wang on February 28, 2006. During the interview, differences between the present invention and references in the outstanding Office Action were discussed. In addition, claim amendments were discussed to more clearly recite that a displaying direction control means controls the direction of display when the angular component remains unchanged for a predetermined time, and Examiner Wang agreed that feature did not appear to be taught or suggested by the references in the outstanding Office Action. Comments and amendments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Martinez in view of Hoshino, Robbins, and Tabata, with respect to the amended independent claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an information processing apparatus that includes, in part, a display screen, posture detecting means for detecting an angular component of a change of posture of the display screen, and displaying direction control means for displaying a plurality of separate images on the display screen and for controlling a direction of display of the selected image by rotating a selected image according to the angular component of the

change of posture of the display screen detected by the posture detecting means. The displaying direction control means controls the direction of display of the selected image by rotating the selected image when the angular component of the change of posture of the display screen detected by the posture detecting means remains unchanged for a predetermined time.

In a non-limiting example, Applicant's Figures 11 and 12 show an example of an information processing apparatus that includes a CPU 30. In step SP11, the CPU 30 detects an angle of rotation of the display section 3 (e.g., an angular component of a change of posture of the display screen) as a first rotation angle based on the captured angular velocity detecting data from an input interface 60. In step SP12, the CPU 30 captures a second angle of rotation from the input interface 60, and in step SP13 the CPU 30 determines if the first angle of rotation and the second angle of rotation are the same.

If the angles of rotation are not the same, the CPU 30 returns to step SP11 to again detect first and second angles of rotation. If the first and second angles of rotation are the same, the CPU 30 repeatedly captures a new second angle (SP12) and re-verifies that the first and second angles are equal (SP13) (e.g., angular component of the change of posture of the display screen remains unchanged) until a delay time is elapsed (SP14)(e.g., a predetermined time).

In other words, the display direction control means is configured to wait until first and second angles of rotation remain unchanged for a predetermined amount of time before rotating the selected image. Thus, the present invention advantageously changes the orientation of the selected image based on a detected rotation of the display, when the angle of rotation of the display remains the same for a predetermined time. For example, when operating the information processing apparatus on a train in which the display unit is joggled

or moved inadvertently, the information processing apparatus can advantageously avoid mistakenly changing the orientation of the selected image.

Applicant respectfully notes that none of the references cited in the outstanding Office Action teach or suggest the feature of controlling the direction of display when the angular component of the change of posture of the display remains unchanged for a predetermined time.

Martinez describes a method and apparatus for altering a display in response to changes in attitude relative to a plane. However, as discussed during the interview, Martinez does not teach or suggest rotating selected images when an angular component remains unchanged for a period of time. Conversely, Martinez describes using time delays in only three situations, each of which is different than the claimed use of a predetermined time.

First, Martinez indicates that “if the rotate feature is on, the process then waits until a selected amount of predefined movement is detected (step 802).”¹ Thus, in this case Martinez merely indicates that a process waits until a selected amount of predefined movement is detected, but does not indicate changing or rotating a selected image when an angle of rotation remains unchanged for a predetermined time.

Further, in Figure 9, Martinez describes a method of rearranging windows when the display is shaken back and forth. Martinez indicates that the method first waits until a movement is detected (step 902). Then, if it is determined that the movement is a degree of tilt greater than or equal to a default (step 912), Martinez indicates that the process is to wait for a defined amount of time or until a movement is detected (e.g., a predetermined time). However, Martinez indicates that if there is no movement (e.g., angle remains unchanged) in the predetermined amount of time, the process merely restarts from the beginning (step A) in step 916. In addition, Martinez indicates that only if a second direction of movement is

¹ Martinez at column 5, lines 48-50.

different (i.e., for shake detection) does Martinez indicate that the windows are arranged in step 918 (e.g., rotating said selected image). In other words, in this example Martinez indicates that only if an angle of the display is **changed** (e.g., shake movement is detected) before the elapsed time out occurs, (e.g., predetermined time) does Martinez arrange windows (e.g., rotating said selected image), which is the opposite behavior to that of the claimed approach, which rotates the selected image when the angle of display remains **unchanged**.

Similarly, in Figure 10, Martinez indicates that a first tilt degree and direction are saved in step 1006, and a process waits for a defined amount of time in step 1009 (e.g., a predetermined time). After waiting for the defined amount of time, if a significant movement occurs, Martinez saves the new angle and may subsequently arrange the windows in step 1022. However, if no significant movement occurs in the predetermined time, Martinez indicates the process restarts from the beginning, A. In other words, Martinez indicates again in this situation that a process waits a defined amount of time and proceeds with arranging a window (e.g., rotating an image) **only if a significant movement occurs**, which is opposite of the behavior of the claimed method in which rotation of a selected image occurs when “the change of posture of the display screen detected by the posture detecting means remain unchanged for a predetermined time,” as recited in the independent claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining references cited in the outstanding Office Action also do not teach or suggest that feature.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 14 and 20, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendments, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

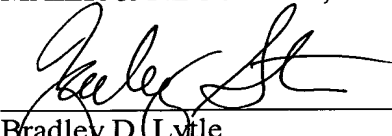
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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